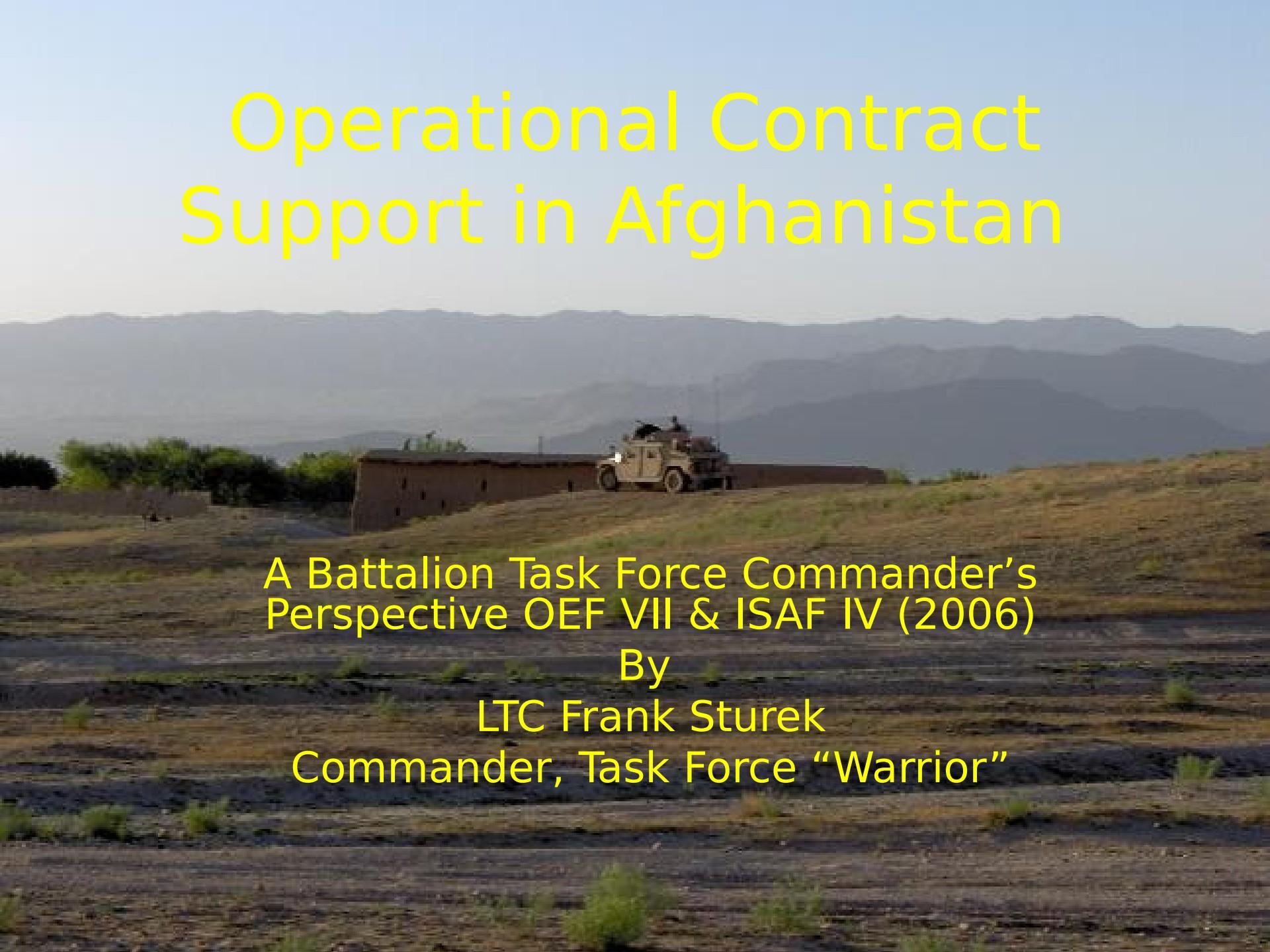


Operational Contract Support in Afghanistan

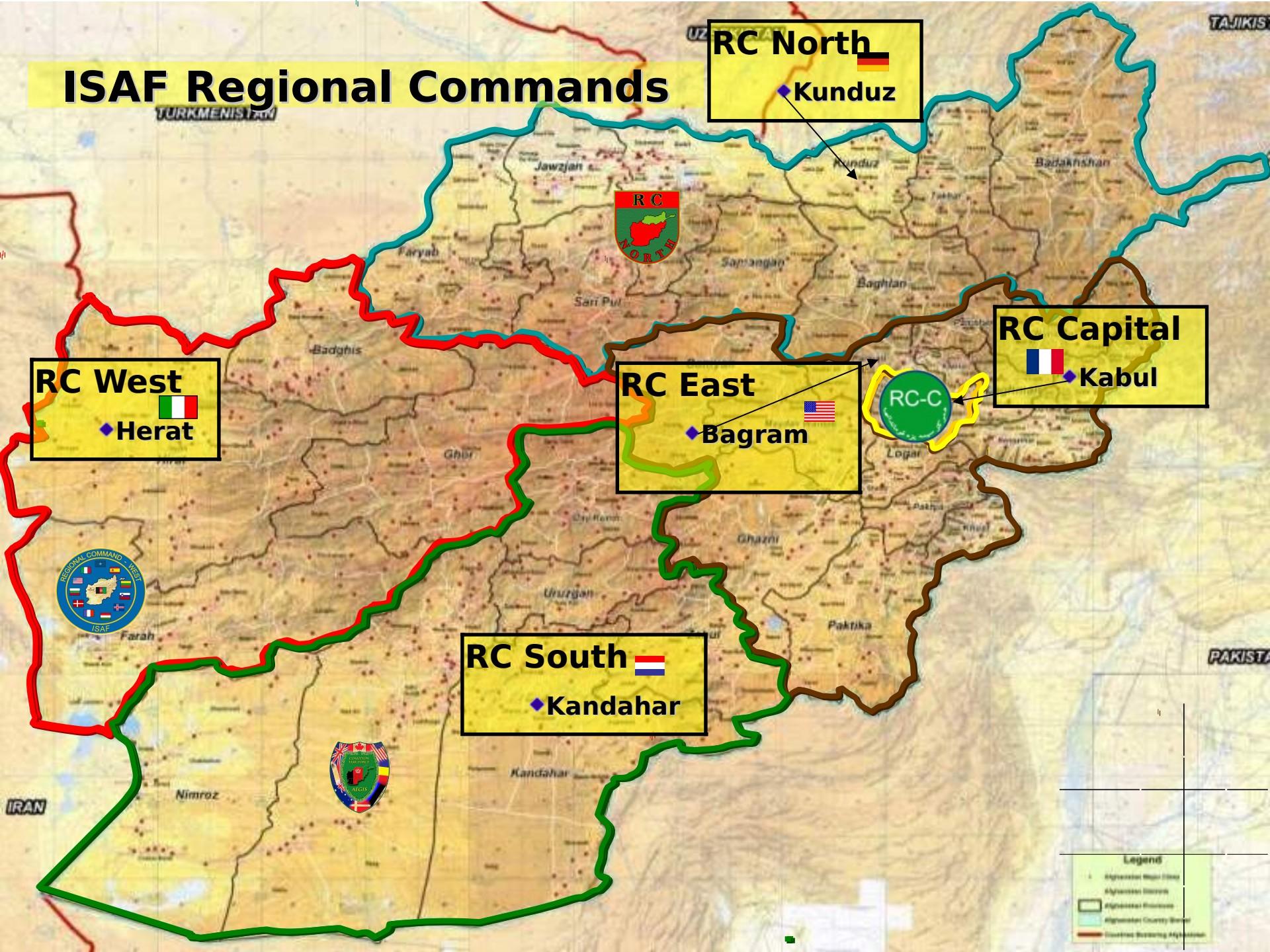
A photograph showing a military vehicle, possibly an MRAP or armored personnel carrier, parked in a dry, open field. In the background, there are low hills and a few simple, mud-brick buildings. The terrain is arid and sparsely vegetated.

A Battalion Task Force Commander's
Perspective OEF VII & ISAF IV (2006)

By

LTC Frank Sturek
Commander, Task Force "Warrior"

ISAF Regional Commands



Environment

- **Landlocked, dominated by Hindu Kush Mountains**
 - **Approximately the size of Texas**
 - **Elevation ranges from 2000 ft to 21,000 ft above sea level**
 - **12% of the land is arable**
 - **Immature road network...1 major paved highway (12,300 kms of paved road)**
 - **Some connecting roads are paved**
 - **Shares Iran a border of 936 km with Iran and 2,430 km with Pakistan**
 - **Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers**

Population

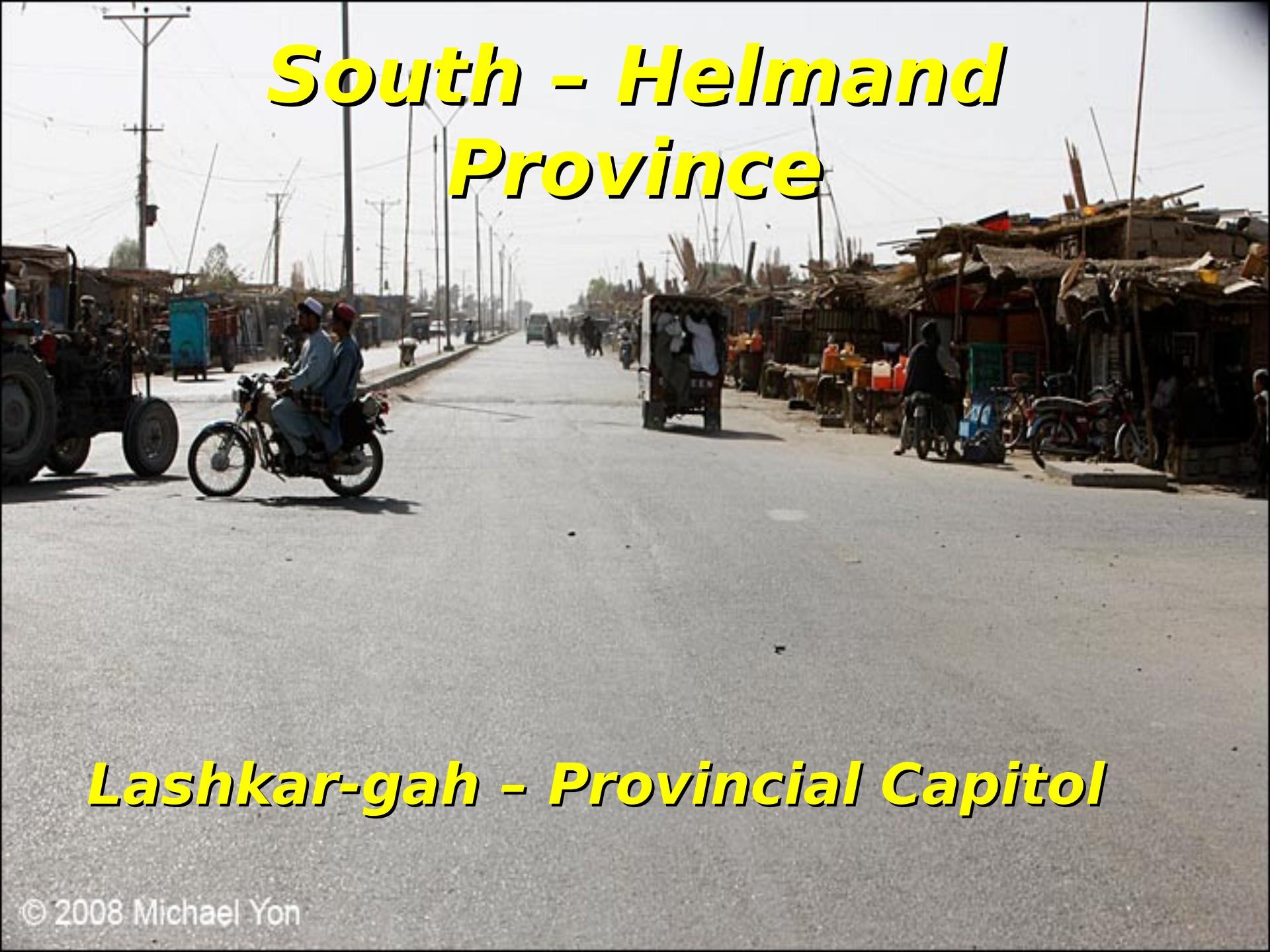
- *Multi-ethnic, but majority Pashtun (42%)*
 - *32 million*
 - *Median Age = 17.6 years (44% are the ages 1-14)*
 - *Life expectancy = 44*
 - *80% Sunni Muslim, 19% Shia Muslim*
 - *Literacy (Age 15 that can read/write) = 28%*
 - *South and southeast = 11%*
- *Agrarian Society*
 - *80% of the population live in remote villages*
 - *80% of employment is in the agricultural sector*
- *Key Urban Centers*
 - *Kabul, Kandahar, Heart, Mazar-Sharif*

An aerial photograph of a vast, green valley. The valley floor is filled with numerous small, rectangular agricultural fields separated by thin paths. A winding river or stream cuts through the center of the valley. In the background, there are several low, rolling hills or mountains covered in sparse vegetation. The sky is clear and blue.

East - Nangahar Province

Kabul River Valley

South - Helmand Province



Lashkar-gah - Provincial Capitol

South - Helmand, Kandahar



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South & West - Helmand, Kandahar, Farah



Theater POEs

- **Bagram, Kabul, Kandahar (for the US Mil)**
 - **To lesser extent:**
 - Jalalabad & Salerno in the east
 - Bastion in the south
 - Herat & Shindand in the west
- **Large bases (10k-20k US Mil and civilians)**
- **Access to intra and inter-theater lift (both Military and Civilian)**
- **Senior Military Officer: 2-3 star General**
 - **Supporting robust staff of contracting officers and a finance office**
- **System Support contracts prevalent**
 - **Major weapons systems, aircraft, vehicles**
- **External Support contracts run base operations**
 - **HQs operations for both external support and theater support contracts**

Forward Operating Base (FOB) - Gardez

- **Brigade and Battalion HQs,
Provincial Reconstruction Team HQs
(500-700 Personnel)**
 - **Highest Ranking Military - Colonel
or Lieutenant Colonel with staff**
 - **External Support Contracts to
sustain the base**
 - **Theater Support contract execution
area**
 - **Platform for System Support
contractors to service equipment
forward**

FOB - Types of Activities

- ***Theater Support Contracts***
 - *Intelligence collection*
 - *Base security*
 - *Class VI (AAFES)*
 - *Police trainers (DYNCORP, Blackwater)*
 - *Governance & Development Advisors and Mentors*
 - *Corps of Engineer Base Construction Contracts*
- ***External Support Contracts***
 - *Interpreters*
 - *LOGCAP: Dining Facility, base operations technicians (electricians, plumbers, etc)*
- ***System Support Contracts***
 - *Base of operations for repair/diagnostic tests forward*
 - *New Equipment fielding forward*



Combat Outpost - Baylough

- Senior military commander: Captain - no staff
- External and Theater Support Contracts
 - Life Support Comfort Services
 - Internet
 - Shower Trailers
 - Base for External Support Contractors to repair equipment (Plumbers, Electricians)
 - Base Security, Intelligence collection (sensor operators)



Theater Support Contracts

- **Critical to our mission**
- **Must be Responsive to commander's needs**
- **Must be flexible**
- **Success = 2-way Communication**



***Afghanistan is remote and
conditions are austere !!***

***This is a NATO Alliance-led
operation...not a US-led Coalition
- Differences are significant***



A Chinook helicopter is shown flying at a very low altitude, just above a rocky mountain ridge. The helicopter is angled downwards towards the right side of the frame. A large plume of dust and smoke is billowing from its rear rotors as it descends. The background consists of steep, rocky mountain faces covered with sparse vegetation. The overall scene conveys a sense of high-risk, low-altitude flight.

QUESTIONS?